OAKLAND TRIBUNE (CA) 11 April 1980

## lA chief says reporters were hirec

By William Ringle Gannett News Service

clash with editors over the use of Richard D. Smyser of the Oak of the Central Intelligence Agen-Ridge (Tenn.) Oak Ridger, mod-cy revealed Thursday that three erator of a panel that questioned U.S. correspondents had agreed Turner.

10 be covert CIA informants.

Although 2Adm Stansfield hend their attitude. Turner said that as the three sit- "I'd be ashamed, if I were you, not-needed the repoters, a num-my ethics," he told the editors. ber of the editors remained up- As for the freedom argument,

-A-number of the editors, including New York Times Execu- you accept a request to serve tive Editor A. M. Rosenthal, were surprised and some were ey, maybe not - that you're no even incredulous that the CIA had announced such a rule.

Turner said that he had changed a policy set by former "But it's your choice whether a CIA Director George Bush that relationship with us reporting U.S. correspondents would not be information to us, would someused as agents. House records how profane your work. And you show that Turner did describe must have relationships with all the new policy publicly on April kinds of other organizations be-20, 1978; at a hearing of the sides ours and hopefully you House Permanent Select Sub-maintain your freedom there. committee on Intelligence's oversight committee.

Turner's exchange with the editors occurred during a question and-answern session after he spoke to the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Use of reporters as a cover for CIA information-gathering was disclosed in post-Watergate investigations of U.S. intelligence

Rosenthal and others contended that if such a practice were followed, even with the limitation Turner imposed, a host country could never be sure whether a U.S. correspondent was a CIA agent or a bonafide news reporter It; would "cast into doubt the ethical and professional status of every foreign correspondent. Rosenthal argued.

Many editors see the practice made up his mind whether it

".it" of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, which prohib-WASHINGTON: During a its government interference with clash with editors over the use of freedom of the press, said Editor

uations had unfolded the CIA had to have to have a law to protect

he said: "What you're saying to Nor were they mollified by his me is that if you accept an as-assurance that a 3-year-old CIA signment from me to get some directive requires his specific aptinformation that might be very proval before news reporters in vital to our country, you've lost very exceptional situations your freedom. I don't understand would used in CIA operations. That I really don't that I really don't. "You're sort of saving

"You're sort of saying that if your country - maybe for monlonger free ... If you slant the news because you're on our payroll, that's bad, you aren't free. I'm sorry, I don't understand the connection you make between serving your country and being free I think you can do both."

Turner said the three correspondents he had enlisted were 'perfectly agreeable" to work with the CIA, but that "the circumstances did not mature in the way we had expected" and we backed off."

Asked if he would continue the practice in special circumstances, he replied that "I think a lot of correspondents are patriotic enough to do this ... and help their government." And they have "unique access that can be of great value to us."

Later, in a talk to the ASNE, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said he had a "gut feeling" against using journalists as CIA agents, but he had not yet

Approved For Release 2007/06/15 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100200126-3